THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) It has been since decided that funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes be released directly to the implementing agencies, as before, instead of being routed through State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Majuli Island in World Heritage Site

899. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tentative World Heritage List prepared by ASI;

(b) whether Majuli Island is in the tentative list of ASI for World Heritage site;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the status of Majuli towards nomination as World Heritage site under Cultural landscape category during 2004?

THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Tentative List of Sites is at present under revision. However, Majuli Island is already included.

(d) The nomination dossier for Majuli Island is under preparation. For 2004, nomination dossier for group of medieval monuments at Champaner in Gujarat has already been sent to World Heritage Centre for consideration.

New pension scheme for central government employees

900. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to set up new pension fund to operationalise new pension scheme for the Central Government employees;

(b) whether the modalities for pension funds have been finalized by the Interim Pension Regulatory Authority set up by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when Government are going to set up the Interim Pension Regulatory Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) In the Budget 2003-04, Government announced to introduce a new pension scheme applicable to new entrants to Government Service, except to the armed forces and upon finalisation offer a basket of pension choices. The new scheme will also be available on a, voluntary basis, to all employers for their employees, as well as to the self employed. The new pension scheme will be portable, allowing transfer of the benefits in case of change of employment, and will go into 'Individual pension account' with pension funds. The precise date for implemenation of this proposal has not been decided.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The necessary procedures have been initiated for setting up the Interim Pension Fund Regulatory Authority. However, a definite time frame for constitution of the said authority is not decided.

Over/under invoicing by drug compaines

901. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending with Government against drug companies for over/under invoicing;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the amount of duty involved in each case;

(c) the reasons for delay in deciding these cases; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government for timely settlement of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.